AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 11-14, with the following amended paragraph:

COCH is a gene that has been identified as a causative gene of non-syndromic hereditary hearingloss DFNA9. A COCH protein encoded by this gene was designated "Cochlin" (N. G. Robertson, " ~~Narure~~ Nature Genet." 20; 1998, pp. 299-303; and NCBI OMIM home page, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov ~~http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/~~).

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 11-13, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 10 shows the positional relationship of antigen polypeptides used to prepare the antibody of the present invention on ~~the~~ amino ~~acid~~ acids 1-250 of the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.